REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action, and for acknowledgement that the drawings are acceptable.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 9 will have been amended, claims 10 and 11 will have been added, and claims 3 and 7 will have been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained-therein). Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-11 are presently pending. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objection and rejection and allowance of all of the pending claims in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Specification pursuant MPEP § 608.01. Therefore, Applicants have amended the Abstract in order to comply with USPTO gudielines. Accordingly, the objection to the Abstract is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FOSTER (U.S. Patent No. 3,087,699). Initially, Applicants note that dependent claim 9 (added by preliminary amendment filed concurrently with the present application) has not been listed among the list of pending or rejected claims in either the Office Action Summary

or in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify the status of all of the pending claims in the next Official Communication.

Also, Applicants note that the Examiner apparently intends to reject the claims over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (i.e., the "AAPA," as contained in Background of the Invention of the present Specification) since the Examiner relies on the AAPA as disclosing the general structure of the gabion mesh.

Further, without acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 solely in order to expedite prosecution of the presently claimed invention.

In particular, claim 1 sets forth a spiral double-twisted structure including, inter alia, an n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and an n-th lower steel wire (B_n) which are paired with each other and rotated in one direction to form a front spiral twisted structure having a plurality of twists, a k-th transverse steel wire (C_k) which is transversely inserted between the n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and the n-th lower steel wire (B_n) of the front spiral twisted structure, and the n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and the n-th lower steel wire (B_n) which are rotated in a direction opposite to the one direction after passing over the k-th transverse steel wire (C_k) serving as a centerline, in order to form a rear spiral twisted structure having a plurality of twists, where k represents the relative positional relationship among transverse steel wires and is a positive integer including 0, and n represents the relative

positional relationship among the upper and lower steel wires and is a positive integer including 0.

Applicant submits that the AAPA and FOSTER, alone or in any properly reasoned combinations, fail to disclose at least the above-noted combination of elements.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the AAPA discloses the general structure of the gabion mesh. However, the Examiner acknowledges that the AAPA does not disclose the twist of the spiral section changing direction at the point of intersection of the inserted traverse wire. Nevertheless, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to modify the acknowledged deficiencies in the AAPA with the purported teaching of FOSTER. More particularly, the Examiner asserts that FOSTER teaches changing the direction of rotation using the point of intersection of the transverse wire as the centerline to determine the point at which to change the direction of rotation.

In this regard, Applicants submit that transverse wire of FOSTER is structurally very different than the transverse wire of the presently claimed invention. More particularly, FOSTER discloses a pairs of wire strands 11 and 12 changing direction after each twist, i.e., by twisting the pair of strands around a weft strand 13 (see, FIG. 1). Thus, FOSTER does not disclose front and rear spiral twist structures each having a plurality of twists, as generally recited in claim 1.

In other words, even assuming, arguendo, that FOSTER discloses using a transverse wire to change the direction of twist, the AAPA and FOSTER, in any properly reasoned combination, do not disclose a front twist structure having a plurality of twists, a transverse wire inserted between the wire strands of the front wire twist structure, and the wire strands being rotated in an opposite direction (i.e., at the intersection of the wire strands and the transverse wire) of the front twist structure to form a rear twist structure having a plurality of twists. That is, if anything, FOSTER strongly suggests locating the transverse wires such that the direction of the twist alternates (or changes) after every twist.

Such transverse wire are clearly not necessary in the AAPA relied upon by the Examiner as the twists are made without the need for transverse wires.

Applicants further submit that independent claim 2 is generally similar to independent claim 1 in that it recites, inter alia, one k-th spiral double-twisted structure including a k-th transverse steel wire (C_k), the k-th spiral double-twisted structure being formed such that an n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and an n-th lower steel wire (B_n) are paired with each other and rotated in one direction to form a front spiral twisted structure having a plurality of twists, the k-th transverse steel wire (C_k) is transversely inserted between the n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and the n-th lower steel wire (B_n) of the front spiral twisted structure, and the n-th upper steel wire (A_n) and the n-th lower steel wire (B_n) are rotated in a direction opposite to the one direction after passing over the k-th transverse steel wire (C_k) serving as a centerline, in order to form a rear spiral twisted structure having a plurality of

twists, where k represents the relative positional relationship among the transverse steel wires and is a positive integer including 0, and n represents the relative positional relationship among the upper and lower steel wires and is a positive integer including 0.

Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable under at least 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for reasons generally similar to claim 1; thus, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 2 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 4-6, 8 and 9, as well as newly-added dependent claims 10 and 11, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 2, which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the reference(s) cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

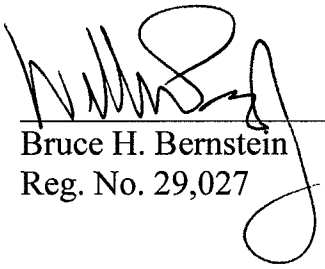
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference(s). Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment The amendments to the claims should thus be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto. Accordingly, this amendment should not be considered a decision by Applicants to narrow the claims in any way.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Wan-Jin JUN et al.



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